

# VAFI

## VICTORIAN ASSOCIATION OF FOREST INDUSTRIES

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### **The VAFI Appalled by latest Greens Propaganda**

Victoria's peak independent forestry body, the Victorian Association of Forest Industries (VAFI) has condemned the Greens for their use of push polling in their latest anti-timber industry propaganda.

The VAFI CEO Philip Dalidakis explained that the claims of Greens Senator, Bob Brown were based on the use of unscrupulous and unethical push polling techniques and blatant environmental hypocrisy.

"Every time someone calls for a reduction in the local forest industry, they are actually actively encouraging logging in overseas markets that are considered to be at high risk of illegal logging" VAFI CEO Philip Dalidakis said.

The local timber industry strives to achieve a balance between appropriate environmental conservation and economic development, playing a significant role in fighting climate change.

"The Federal Government recognises our sector as the only one that removes more greenhouse gas than it emits and Victorian Government modelling supports that by showing public land stores more carbon than it releases, inclusive of timber harvesting" explained Philip Dalidakis.

Instead of exaggerated claims by anti-industry activists, there is a need for a sense of scale in this debate. Of the 7.8 million hectares of native forest in Victoria, about 5500ha is harvested annually or less than 0.07 per cent of the total forest estate.

The general survey results published by the Greens also clearly identify the use of push polling, a form of questioning used to influence the results by restricting the specific nature of the questions and answers.

While many Australians are in favour of putting in place some form of protection for forests, they would also be likely to add that they believe this includes striking a balance between sensible environmental conservation and economic development.

The use of push polling techniques by the Greens has influenced the results of this so called public survey, and eroded any remaining credibility the party has on this issue.

This unashamed propaganda further proves that the Greens will say anything to promote their anti-timber, anti-jobs agenda.